

Application No. 09/864,197  
Amendment dated: March 30, 2004  
Reply to Office Action dated October 1, 2003

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**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims, in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (currently amended) A tip section for customizing a cue stick, the tip section comprising:

(a) a single-piece tapered hollow-metallic tube having a hollow body terminating in a first end and a second end, said hollow body being defined by a wall capable of self-support and of carrying required physical loads arising during use, the tube said wall having an exterior providing a substantially smooth surface, said second end permitting connection to a butt section of the cue stick, the tube having a wall capable of self-support and of carrying required physical loads arising during use;

(b) a cue tip, having a threaded body, for a first attachment site adjacent to at said first end for connecting said tube to a cue tip; and

(c) a second attachment site adjacent to said second end for connecting said tube to a butt section

(d) a plurality of insertable augmenting elements for interacting with locating means within said hollow body to permit selective placement and fixation of said plurality of augmenting elements within said hollow body to selectively adjust at least two of weight, balance, flex and tactile feedback of the cue stick to customize the cue stick in accordance with a user's preference.

Claim 2 (currently amended) The tip section of claim 1, wherein said plurality of insertable augmenting elements include a selection of weights and stiffening members, further comprising an augmenting element securable to an interior position within the hollow tube, said augmenting element being selected from the group comprising: a weight and a stiffening member;

wherein placement of said augmenting element tailors an operational characteristic of the hollow tube,

Claim 3 (currently amended) The tip section of claim 2, wherein said locating means include an interior taper in said hollow body for interaction with correspondingly tapered placement of

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said insertable augmenting element elements sized for their selective placement at desired locations along the interior taper of said hollow body, in the interior position within the hollow tube is determined by matching the tube's inner diameter at the desired placement within the tube with the augmenting element's outer diameter.

Claim 4 (currently amended) The tip section of claim 1, wherein the hollow tube is composed of a metal selected from the group consisting of: lightweight steel, polished aluminum, magnesium alloy and stainless steel.

Claim 5 (cancelled)

Claim 6 (currently amended) The tip section of claim 5-2, wherein said stiffening member is members are between 1 and 10 inches long in length.

Claim 7 (currently amended) The tip section of claim 4-2, wherein said stiffening member is members are composed of a material materials selected from the groups consisting of wood, plastic, high-tensile metal, lightweight steel, aluminum, magnesium alloy and stainless steel.

Claim 8 (cancelled)

Claim 9 (currently amended) The tip section of claim 1 wherein the substantially smooth surface said exterior of the tube is provided by one of selected of the group comprising: chrome-plating, polished aluminum, titanium, high-gloss finish finishing, and polishing.

Claim 10 (cancelled)

Claim 11 (currently amended) A kit for customizing a tip section of a cue stick, the kit comprising:

(a) a single-piece tapered hollow metallic tube having a first end and a second end, said first end having a first attachment site for attaching a cue tip having a threaded body, said second end having an attachment site for connection to a butt section of the cue stick, the hollow tube having an exterior providing a substantially smooth surface, the hollow tube having a wall capable of self-support and of carrying required physical loads arising during use; and

(b) a plurality of augmenting elements, including weights and stiffening members, contoured for insertion and fixation within the hollow tube at selectable positions determined by cooperation with locating means within the hollow tube to selectively adjust at least two of

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weight, balance, flex and tactile feedback of the cue stick for customization of the cue stick in accordance with a user's preference. ~~(b) — a first attachment site adjacent to said first end for connecting said tube to a cue tip; and~~  
~~(c) — a second attachment site adjacent to second end for connecting said tube to a butt section.~~

Claim 12 (cancelled)

Claim 13 (currently amended) The kit of claim 11 wherein placement of said augmenting elements are selectively sized to correspond to desired locations along an interior taper of the hollow tube. ~~element in the interior position within the hollow tube is determined by matching the tube's inner diameter at the desire placement within the tube with the augmenting element's outer diameter.~~

Claim 14 (new) The kit of claim 11, wherein said locating means include a selection of insertable locators for selectively positioning and spacing said augmenting members within the hollow tube.

Claim 15 (new) The kit of claim 11, further comprising a selection of cue tips.

Claim 16 (new) The tip section of claim 1, wherein said locating means include insertable locators for selectively positioning and spacing said augmenting members within the hollow body.